

history. Much of her early life was spent on a cattle ranch in the Medicine Lodge area of Clark County. From these beginnings she recognized the imperative to preserve and share the history of her area, as well as the surrounding Idaho and Montana ranch and farm country. I applaud Bonnie for her agricultural service and the historical value she has added to her community.

Operating a portion of his grandfather's original homestead in Ririe, Robert Brown raises wheat, barley, and hay. Robert's hard work has not gone unnoticed, in fact, he's received the Life Achievement Award from the Idaho Grain Producers Association, the Distinguished Service Award from the Idaho Wheat Commission, and various other awards. He has served on the Farm Service Agency Board and other agricultural and land use advisory groups. From hosting delegates at his farm to representing the State of Idaho in supporting legislation that benefits Idaho Farmers in Washington, D.C., Robert has been a great asset to the farming community.

Starting at the young age of 14 with his own hay baling business, auctioneer Frank Priestly has been involved in agriculture his entire life. Frank and his wife, Susan, worked in agriculture together, establishing an 80-cow family dairy. Frank served as the President of the Idaho Farm Bureau for 18 years. One of his many accomplishments through the organization was development and implementation of the Moving Agriculture to the Classroom Program, or M.A.C., which enables educators' access to teaching modules on various agricultural topics. Frank has represented his constituent group of Farm Bureau members at the local, regional, state, and federal levels and mentored young producers.

R.J. Smith grew up working on the family ranch near Tendoy, and is a graduate from Salmon high school R.J. competed on the rodeo team while attending the University of Utah before enlisting in the Army. During the Vietnam war, R.J.'s heroic efforts included flying helicopters. He used his flying skills while working on a bison ranch in Wyoming along with his wife, Grace. Since returning to the state of Idaho, R.J. has been honored as Lemhi County Cattle and Horse Grower of the year and Lemhi County Grassman of the year. Through his many years of service he has served as chairman of the Lemhi Irrigation District, along with various state livestock committees. He continues to be a great leader in water and irrigation policy which benefits wildlife, fish and agriculture production.

Having grown up on a farm in the Ririe, Idaho area, Stan Boyle understands the value of hard work and determination. The Eastern Idaho Agricultural Hall of Fame is an addition to the lengthy list of accolades awarded to Stan. School districts have honored him for his role as an educator, he is a member of the Idaho 4-H Hall of Fame, and the Bonneville County Cattlemen's Association honored him with their Lifetime Achievement Award. As a mentor to countless youth in the community, Stan has helped shaped the future of agriculture in the area.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely thank these individuals for their service and commitment to the agriculture communities in Eastern Idaho.

CONDEMNING THE SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SYRIAN CIVIL WAR

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2018

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, as the Ranking Democratic Member of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (U.S. Helsinki Commission), I rise today to denounce the human rights abuses taking place across the globe. In particular, I call attention to the ongoing Syrian Civil War.

Since 2011, it is estimated that almost 500,000 Syrians have been killed with millions more displaced, creating a refugee crisis across Europe and the Middle East. On March 15th, we will sadly mark the seventh anniversary of the Syrian Civil War, which is one of the bloodiest wars of the last 70 years.

I traveled to Syria in January 2010 and personally met with President Bashar al-Assad. As I pressed him on the importance of honoring the right of his people to exercise their civil liberties and fundamental freedoms, I knew immediately that he would not give in. Many others, like me, recognized this long before civil war erupted. And yet, years have passed without the necessary effort by the international community to stop the violence.

On May 28, 2013, I sent a letter to former President Barack Obama and Ambassador Susan Rice, urging them to support imposing a no-fly zone over Syria, particularly in light of the continued indiscriminate shelling of innocent civilians and the use of chemical weapons by the Assad regime. I renewed my calls for a no-fly zone to President Obama again on September 25, 2015.

Mr. Speaker, what we have witnessed since the start of this civil war is indiscriminate, brutal attacks against civilians. The international community must no longer sit idly by and let more families be torn apart and more civilians become refugees.

According to the United Nations (UN), nearly 3 million Syrian children have lived their entire lives gripped by civil war. This is absolutely outrageous, and something needs to happen, and it needs to happen now.

Mr. Speaker, it has been seven years, let me repeat myself, seven years, since this civil war began. This crisis, in which millions of innocent Syrians find themselves today, demands our full attention and fervent commitment to creating a strategy that will bring an end to the deplorable conditions facing the Syrian people. The need for immediate and strong action remains. With each passing day, the violence has grown more sectarian, militarized, and radicalized at the cost of innocent Syrian lives.

INTRODUCTION OF THE AMERICAN VITICULTURAL AREAS RESOLUTION

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2018

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today Rep. LEE ZELDIN and I are introducing a reso-

lution that celebrates America's wineries and vineyards and recognizes the importance of distinctive American winegrowing regions, including those protected by American Viticultural Area (AVA) designations.

I am particularly proud of Oregon's AVAs and the world-renown pinots they produce. Nationally, there are more than 10,000 wineries operating in all 50 states. These economic powerhouses generated, directly and indirectly, more than \$219 billion for the United States economy last year and directly employ nearly 1 million Americans. Together, they make 10 percent of global wine production.

American Viticultural Areas (AVAs) are designated wine-growing regions in the United States that have distinguishing features affecting viticulture, including climate, geology, soils, physical features, and elevation. This year marks the 40th anniversary of the creation of the American Viticulture Area designation system. AVA designations allow vintners to describe more accurately the origin of their wines and help them build and enhance the reputation and value of the wines they produce. They also help consumers identify wines they wish to purchase.

For these reasons, we ask our colleagues to join us in recognizing the significant contributions to the economic and cultural life of the nation made by American wines and distinctive American wine-growing regions and acknowledging the value of American Viticultural Area designation in promoting American wines domestically and abroad. Together we should continue to support efforts to promote awareness of and appreciation for distinctive American winegrowing.

IN HONOR OF LANETT WINNING AHSAA CLASS 2A HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TITLE

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2018

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize Lanett High School for winning the Alabama High School Athletic Association (AHSAA) Class 2A basketball state title for the third year in a row.

This three-peat came after The Panthers beat St. Luke's Episcopal on March 2, 2018 at the Legacy Arena at the BJCC in Birmingham, Alabama.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the students and faculty of Lanett High School, the coaches, the players and all the Panthers fans on this exciting achievement for the third consecutive year. Go Panthers.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2018

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, on March 5, 2018, I was not present for votes due to a medical procedure in my District. If I had been present, I would have voted:

On Roll Call vote 92, on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 3183, I would have voted Aye; and